

Iowa's Transition Plan for Supplemental Education Services and School Choice Options under No Child Left Behind for 2016-2017

The Every Student Succeeds Act provides Iowa with some flexibility related to Title I requirements for school choice and supplemental education services (SES) during the 2016-2017 school year. Iowa, through the Iowa Department of Education, has chosen that flexibility option and has developed this transition plan for ensuring that local education agencies provide alternative supports for students eligible for SES and school choice in buildings with the greatest need during the 2016-2017 school year. Specific provisions of this transition plan tie to the four assurances required for committing to this plan, including:

1. **Iowa will engage in timely and meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders, including parents, local educational agencies (LEAs), teachers, and principals, when developing the transition plan;**

The Iowa Department of Education invited stakeholders to participate in one or more of four regional meetings to provide both written and oral input on providing alternative supports in the 2016-2017 school year for SES-eligible students in schools with the greatest need. These meetings were strategically hosted in regional sites across the state to include Bettendorf, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines and Sioux City. These meetings were publicized widely, and 51 people attended, including staff from 25 school districts, school board members, representatives of education organizations, parents, and the general public. Iowans were invited to provide input in writing, as well as in person at the meetings. PowerPoint slides from the presentation at each meeting, along with the written and oral input received, were posted on the Iowa Department of Education's website at the following link:

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/every-student-succeeds-act>

Additionally, notice was sent to all public school districts of Iowa's intent to create a transition plan on this issue. That notice invited school districts to communicate this issue widely. It also invited any stakeholder to email questions, concerns, or comments directly to the Iowa Department of Education using the ESSA@iowa.gov email address created for all ESSA purposes.

2. **The Iowa Department of Education will publicly post its transition plan no later than Friday, May 6, 2016 in the manner in which the State customarily provides such information to the public (e.g., by posting its transition plan on its website);**

This transition plan will be placed on the Iowa Department of Education's website, on the ESSA webpage, and notice of this posting will be actively provided to stakeholders.

3. **Iowa's transition plan will explain how it will provide or ensure that LEAs provide students eligible for SES in schools with the greatest need (e.g., schools with large numbers or percentages of students eligible for SES, or as defined in the State's transition plan) with alternative support and activities intended to improve student outcomes consistent with allowable uses of Title I funds and all applicable fiscal requirements;**

As part of stakeholder engagement on the development of this plan, the Iowa Department of Education heard clearly from school district representatives that they value providing these types of supports for qualified students. Generally, representatives of school districts offering SES and school choice believed that they could continue to provide the same types of supports before or after school directly using some designated Title IA funds for this purpose and using existing staff members. As part of the Title IA application submitted for 2016-2017, school districts with SES-eligible students will be required to describe what they will do to ensure they are maintaining these types of supports for qualified students.

Iowa will assure the United States Department of Education these requirements will be met through three specific actions:

- A. The Iowa Department of Education will require the superintendent (or designee) of each LEA with at least one SINA 2 or above building to identify, using the same procedures and measures used in the 2015-2016 school year, the students eligible for SES in the LEA during the 2016-2017 school year;
- B. The Iowa Department of Education will require the superintendent (or designee) of each LEA with at least one SINA 2 or above building to provide alternative support and improvement activities to each SES-eligible student, with the goal of improving student outcomes, in a manner consistent with allowable uses of Title I funds and all applicable fiscal requirements.
- C. The Iowa Department of Education will require each LEA with at least one SINA 2 or above building to narratively describe the alternative supports that will be provided to SES-eligible students as part of the Title I application submission process for 2016-2017. The Iowa Department of Education will review these narratives in conjunction with each LEA's Title 1 Part A budget.

As part of the application process, the Iowa Department of Education will develop additional guidance that will include examples and non-examples of what these assurances by school districts will mean in actual practice.

- 4. Consistent with ESEA section 1116(b)(13), it will require LEAs to permit a student who previously transferred to another public school under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) to remain in that school until the child has completed the highest grade in that school**

The Iowa Department of Education will require the superintendent (or designee) of each LEA with at least one SINA 1 or above building to permit a child who transferred to another public school under NCLB to remain in that school until the child has completed the highest grade in that school.

The Iowa Department of Education will monitor this process through its Title IA application in the Iowa Education Portal. If an LEA is found to be in noncompliance with these requirements, the Iowa Department of Education will work with the school district to ensure compliance. Iowa is committed to ensuring that students who qualify for these supports continue to receive the programming they deserve.